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AVERY
STRACZYNSKI
ROMITA JR
HANNA

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®



UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES II OF II

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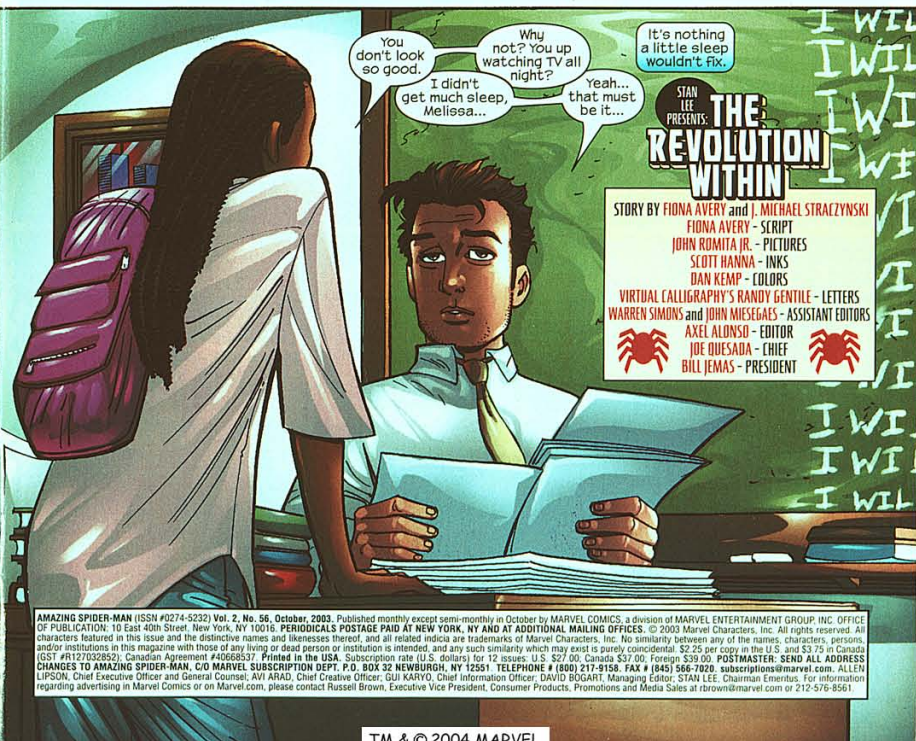
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邪 JAGUN 眼
FIGHTERS

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Better still, maybe a whole weekend's worth of sleep. To make up for eight nights spent watching out for her...



She gets in more trouble than any other kid her age could ever dream up.



All because she's looking for her brother, Joshua, who disappeared right after he got out of jail. A guy I helped put away.



So, you guys said you know some folks who might know where my brother is.

Yeah, we asked 'em. They said they'd meet us here if you got a pic.



I have a picture of him taken not too long ago. I can't know if he's cut his hair or what...

They're pretty rowdy guys, you should probably have left it to us.

No way. This is about family and I have a responsibility here. Mom's really taking it hard...



...and if I don't find him, who will?

Oh boy... here it comes...



The cops sure as hell aren't any help and...

Well, now. Seems you came right on time, just like they told you to.

Hey, whoa, what's the problem--?



Your brother spit on us before he paid us what he owes for some of the junk we sold him. When we heard you were looking for him, we figured, well, if we couldn't find him, we could always get it from you.

yep. It's a setup. Damn!



But I can't just dive in without letting Melissa know I've been watching.



You look scared. Good.

I ain't scared of you.

Yeah, he's not scared of you--

Don't help.



CRASH BLANG!

The hell is--!



THUD-CLANG!

AAAAAH!

Holy--



Let's go! Move! Get out of here!



You see anything out there, Harold?

Harold's an idiot, he never sees anything.

What's all the racket? What? What?

See?



C'mon, Mel.

Thanks!

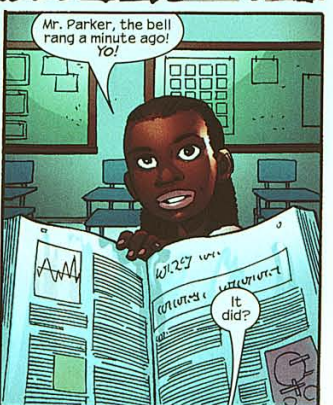
One more crisis averted. I'll let the neighborhood deal with these guys. I gotta keep my eye on Melissa.



Tomorrow I'll figure out some way to keep her out of trouble at least for one night so I can be alert, and awake, and get some serious investigation work done. Shouldn't be that much to ask for...

...and the coefficient, over here, relates to the numeral over here but... well, it doesn't, they don't get along, but--

Mr. Parker?



Mr. Parker, the bell rang a minute ago! Yo!

It did?



Oh, yeah. It did. Sorry.



You got a fever or something?

Or is this just another geek trait? Paydreaming in Biology 101 about atomic cell subdivisions or something...

Don't you have another class to go to?



Yeah, I do. But I was trying to get your attention for a reason.

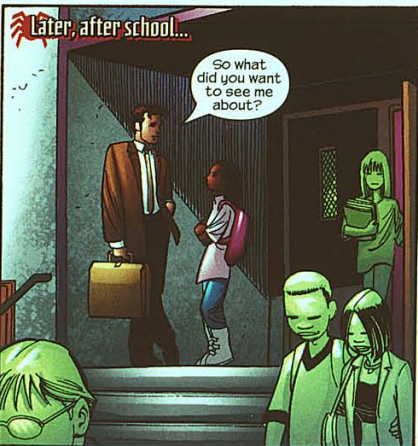
I want to talk to you--after school.

What? Am I in trouble?



Something like that. See ya.

Great, just serve me detention already. At least I could get some sleep.



Later, after school...

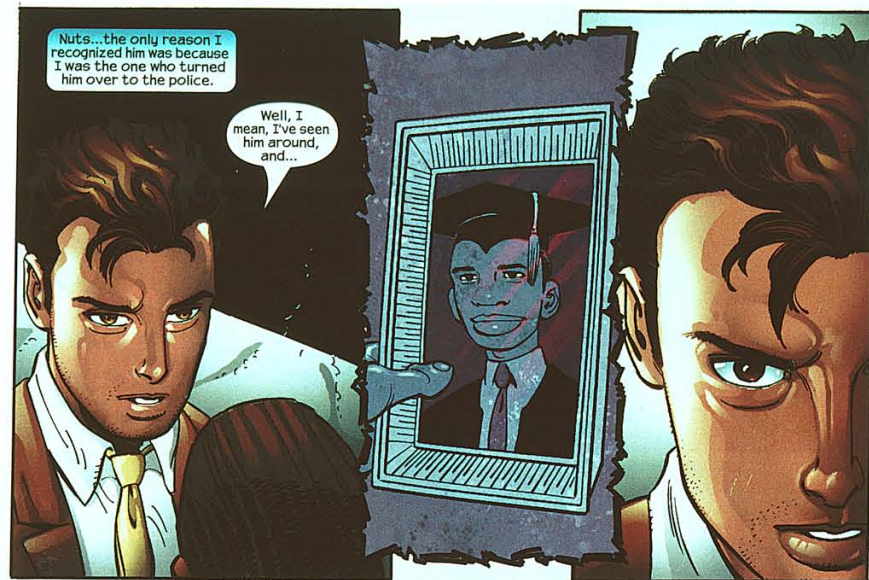
So what did you want to see me about?



What do you know about Joshua?

I...

I saw your reaction to his picture.

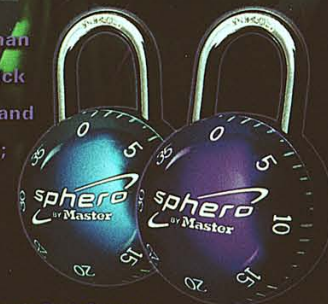


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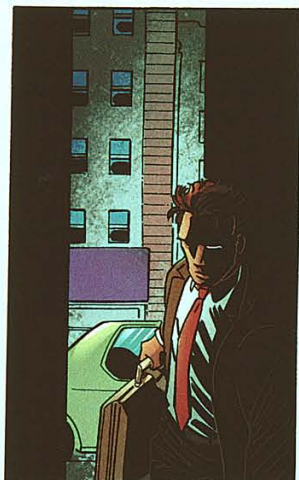
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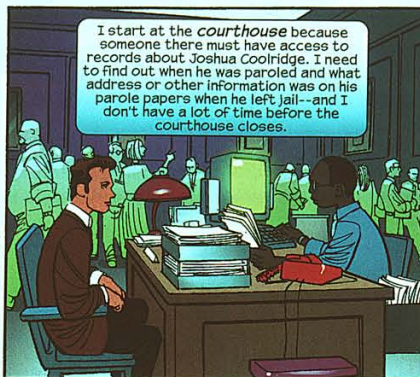
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One slightly illegal action and thirty minutes later...



I start at the courthouse because someone there must have access to records about Joshua Coolridge. I need to find out when he was paroled and what address or other information was on his parole papers when he left jail--and I don't have a lot of time before the courthouse closes.



The woman at the counter isn't exactly helpful. It was a lot easier getting information as a photographer for the paper. These days, "Science Teacher for High School Kids" doesn't allow me to swing my weight around properly...



Joshua Coolridge was released on good behavior by Judge Simon. That's all I can tell you. I will not divulge other parts of his record such as street address, when he was released or any other personal information.



Can you tell me where he's staying now?

I have no information on his current whereabouts. Only his parole officer would know, but he wouldn't release it either. That's strictly confidential material.



So, that expedition was about as helpful as shot.



Ezekiel?

Peter. Hello.

What are you doing here?



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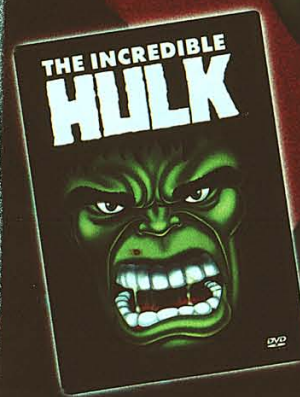
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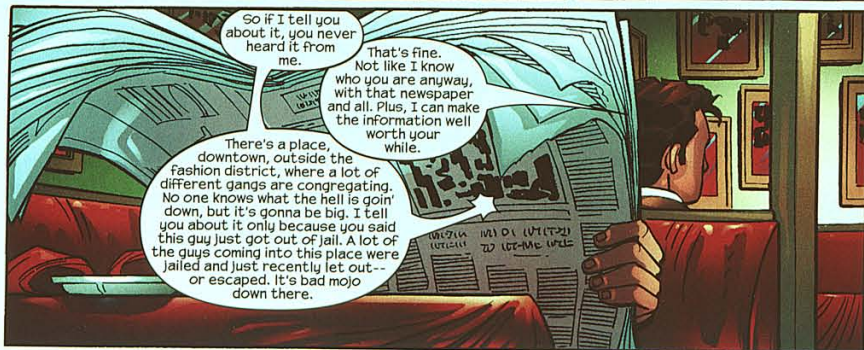
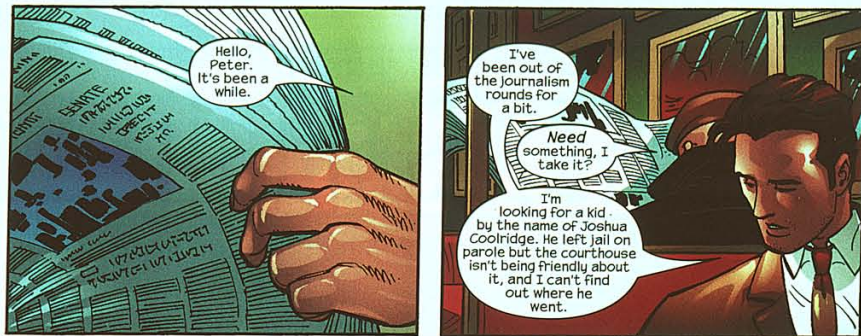
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Without the babysitting part.



I did some more digging in the underworld and double checked the information my contact at the bar gave me...



And all arrows pointed to the same part of town...

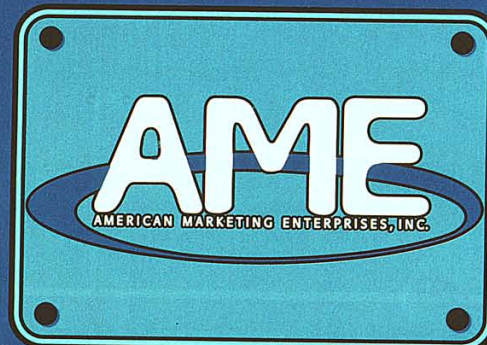
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Finding the right building turns out to be easier than I thought.



It's the only one that's radiating "criminality" as brightly as the red-light district a few blocks away.



This looks too big to bust, plus I have no idea what they're actually doing.



I need a better look. Even if it's just a meeting where I can assess what they're up to, at least I'll get a good look at their faces and see if Mel's brother's here.



GREEEEEEK



Balcony seats... Looks like the show is about to start.

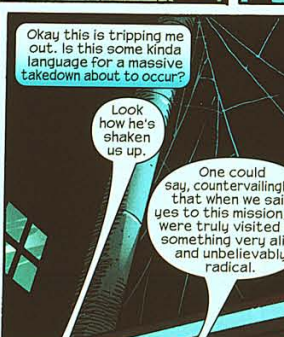


We accept that there are legitimate *causius* belli...

The Man is an identifiable human type, but on an unidentifiable scale. He is an enormous stirrer--a titanic mixer.



Causius belli? I have never heard guys like *this* use language like *that* before. In fact, I don't even know what the hell it means!



Okay this is tripping me out. Is this some kinda language for a massive takedown about to occur?

Look how he's shaken us up.

One could say, countervailingly, that when we said yes to this mission, we were truly visited by something very alien and unbelievably radical.

Keep your cool, and look for Joshua out there somewhere...

A completely new kind of enemy for whom death is not life, either, but illusion, a staging-post, merely the thing which is called World.



Where is the new recruit?

This is a vital question. Joshua?

Yes?



There he is. Good, because I was starting to feel lost in a Quentin Tarantino movie.

Oh crap--that's my phone! Gotta hang up before it rings.



Whew. Safe. But what the hell was Ezekiel doing calling this phone? I never gave him the number.



I'll have to think about that later--right now--

BREEEE!

DAMN! I FORGOT ABOUT THE MESSAGE BEEP!



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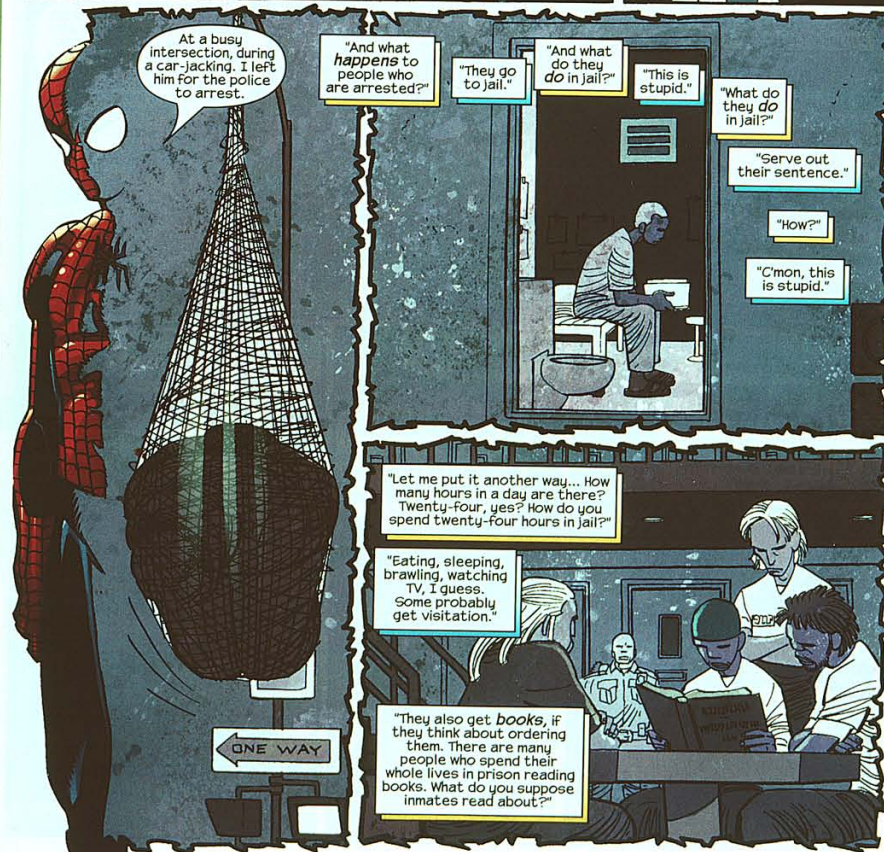
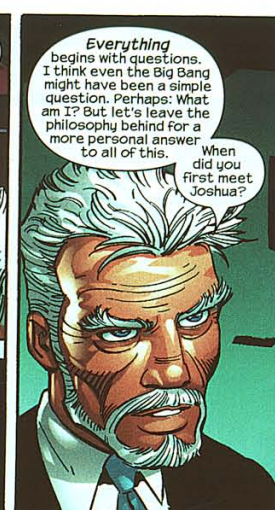
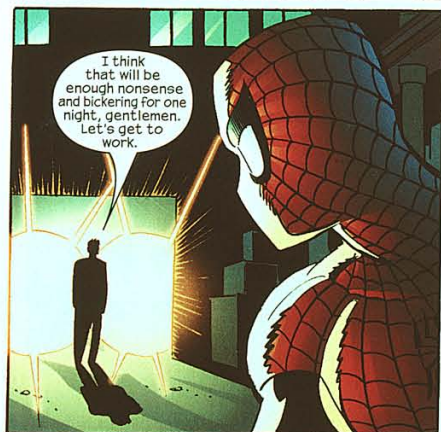
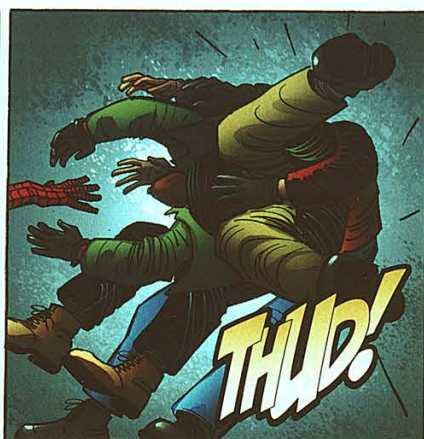
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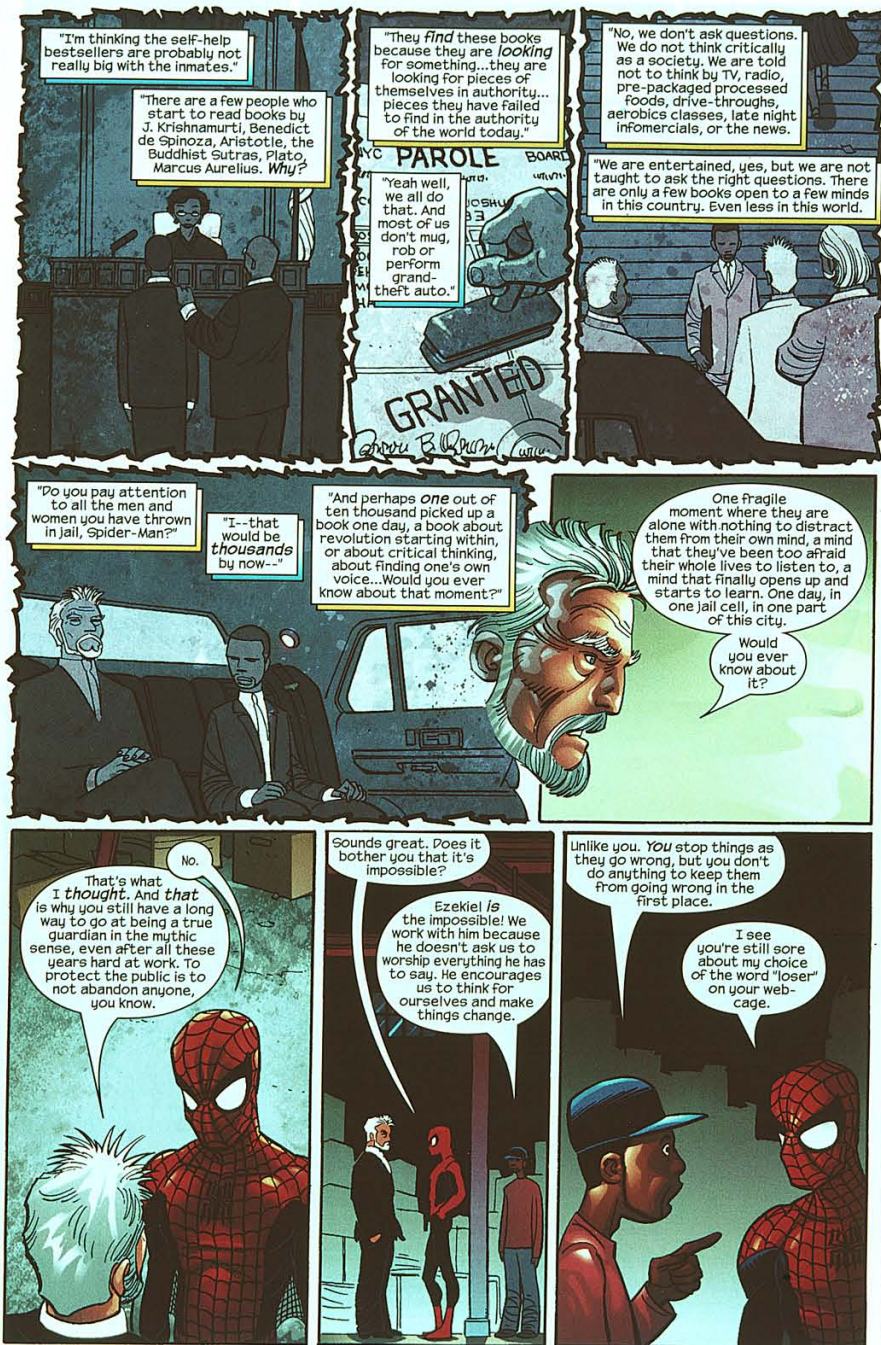
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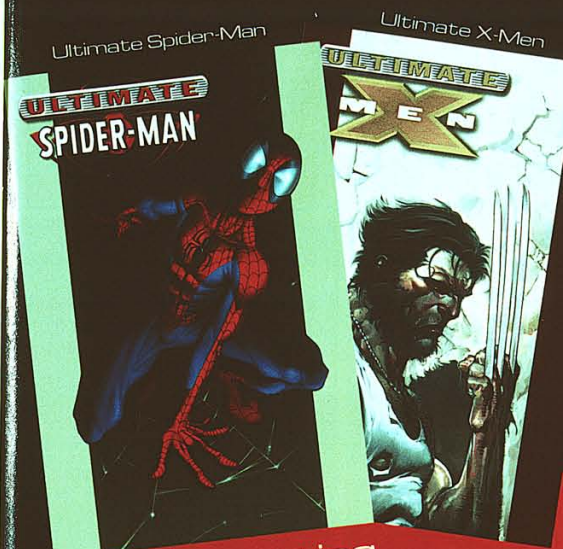
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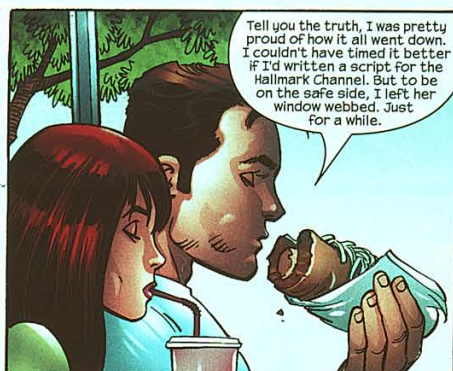
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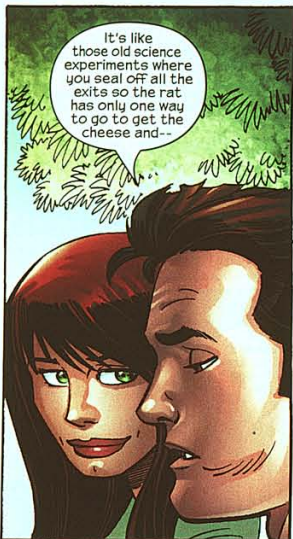


...so then what happened? Did he ever visit her?

Yeah... he did.



Tell you the truth, I was pretty proud of how it all went down. I couldn't have timed it better if I'd written a script for the Hallmark Channel. But to be on the safe side, I left her window webbed. Just for a while.



It's like those old science experiments where you seal off all the exits so the rat has only one way to go to get the cheese and--



What is it? Am I talking too much about the "Other Me," or maybe I didn't ask you how your day went, and I know how I can get caught up on one topic and talk for a long time without stopping in these really long run-on sentences and--



You're doing just fine, tiger.



Oh. Thanks.



You still didn't tell me how it was when you first saw them together.

Oh, right.



It's like I said, the constant variable is not the part of it that you're getting incorrect, it's the--

No way!



It's--



--Joshua?

Hi Mel. It's been a while.



POOSH!



YOU JERK!

COOF!
GOD, MEL!

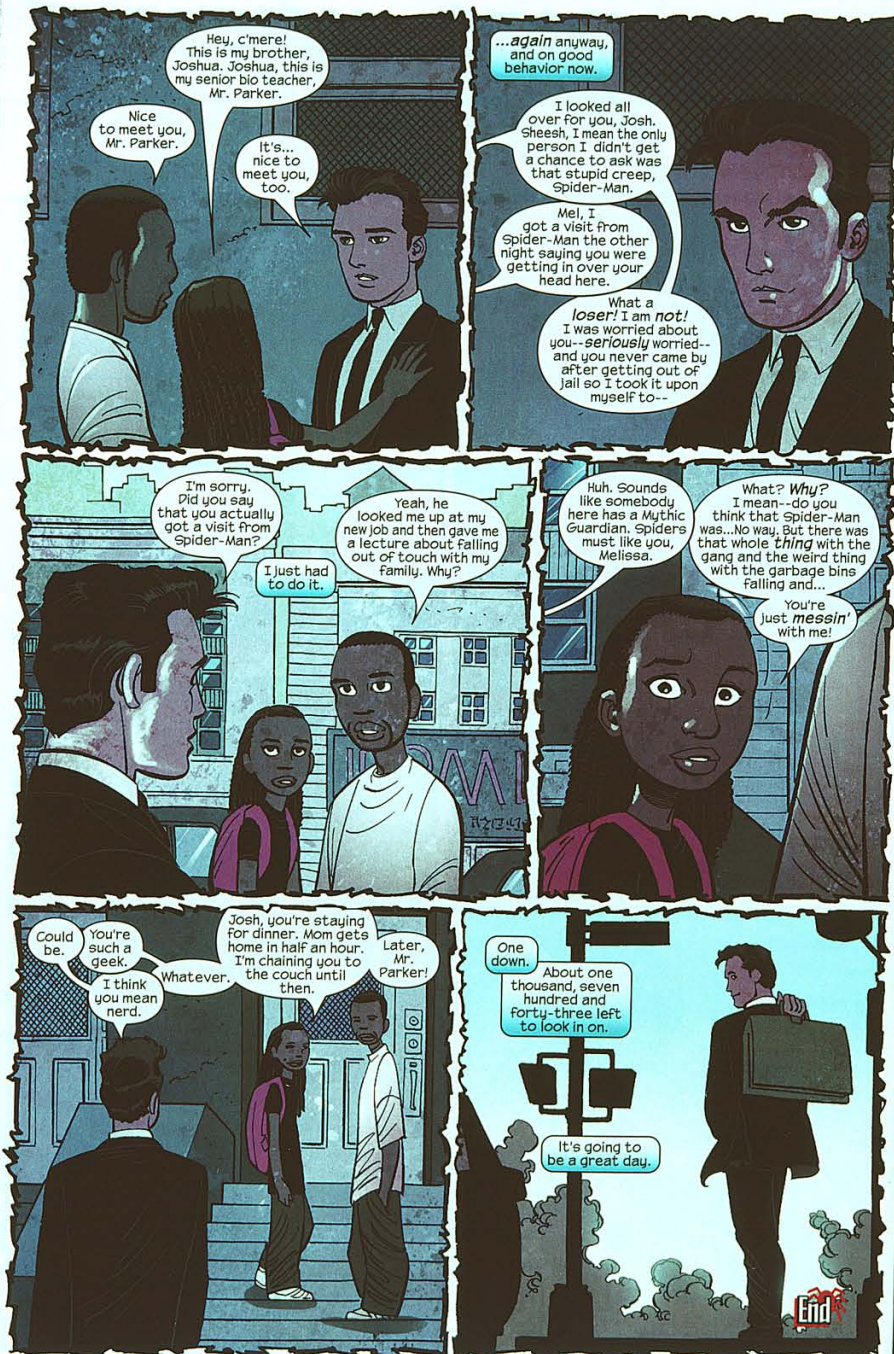


Don't ever take off like that again!

I'll be feeling how close that was to my solar plexus for at least a week.

It's so good to see you, and--

Where the heck did you learn to talk like one of our biology textbooks?



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